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Phillip A. Jacobs, LL.B.(Hons); A.K.C.; F.I.P.S.M.; F.C.M.I. Assistant Chief Constable

Your Ref: NW/slg

Our Ref: D1/P.174/02

19 February 2003

Nigel Waterson MP House of Commons LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Waterson

Mrs G MacKenzie, Code A

Thank you for your letter, dated 13 February 2003, in relation to a complaint against police made by the above named person.

I am the Investigating Officer in relation to a public complaint made by a number of relatives, in relation to the police investigation into deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. This has been a complicated matter, into events that took place some considerable time ago. Whilst the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) set a target of 120 days in which to complete my investigation, they acknowledge that this 'one size fits all' is not always appropriate. With a complaint of this complexity, the primary objective, in my view, is to conduct a thorough and professional investigation. With so many interested parties, this has taken longer than the 120 days.

The force has kept the families updated on the progress of both the criminal and complaint investigations.

At the end of January 2003, I had arranged to interview Chief Superintendent James. However, prior to the interview, he provided, as is his prerogative, a detailed written account of his involvement in the case. This amounted to over 60 pages of information. I took the decision to postpone the interview in order to assess the content of the submission, as this may negate the need for an interview, as long as all the areas I wanted to cover, in interview, were dealt with.

I have now considered the submission by Mr James, and I have taken the decision that there would be no useful purpose in arranging a new date for an interview. Based upon the content of



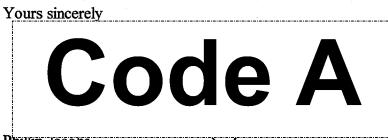
that submission and the other evidence I have obtained, I will now submit a report, detailing my recommendations, to the PCA, via the Deputy Chief Constable, for their endorsement and approval.

It would not be right for me to give any indication, at this stage, of the likely outcome of this investigation, as the final decision will lie with the PCA.

I will endeavour to have my report written and submitted to the PCA within the next 10 days and will ask for an expeditious review by the PCA. As soon as a decision has been taken, the PCA will write direct to all of the complainants, detailing their decision and the reasons for it.

I trust that this very brief update will enable you to reassure Mrs MacKenzie that we are dealing as expeditiously as possible with the complaint.

Should you require any further information about the process, may I suggest that you make contact with Chief Superintendent Derek Stevens, who is the Head of our Professional Standards Department.



Philip Jacobs Assistant Chief Constable, Territorial Operations

#### NIGEL WATERSON MP (EASTBOURNE)



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

#### LONDON SW1A 0AA

P Jacobs Esq Assistant Chief Constable, Territorial Operations Hampshire Constabulary Police Headquarters West Hill Winchester Hants SO22 5DB

NW/slg

13<sup>th</sup> February 2003

### Dear Mr Jacobs

MRS	G MACKENZIE.	Code A
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Mrs Mackenzie, who is one of my constituents, came to see me recently. She is very concerned, as am I, that your own enquiry into the complaint against Superintendent James is still ongoing. May I ask you when you believe this is likely to be concluded? I understand that there is a target figure of 120 days for such enquiries to be concluded.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely Code A

NIGEL WATERSON MP for Eastbourne

# HAMPSHIRE CONCTABULARY

17 FEB 2003 ACC'T'S C CE PHQ WIN THASTER

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